Statement

Number of purchase centres operated by the FCI for Wheat/Paddy procurement during Rabi/Kharif season 1987-88.

State	Number of centres operated by FCI for procurement of wheat during 1987-88 Rabi	Number of centres operated by FCI for procurement of paddy during 1987-88 Kharif
Punjab	475*	422*
Haryana	66*	81*
Uttar Pradesh	300	71
Delhi	3	1
Rajasthan	34	..
Andhra Pradesh	..	109
Madhya Pradesh—Directly by FCI : 15 Through co ops. 361	376	49
West Bengal	..	1629*
Pondicheri	..	2
Arunachal Pradesh	..	8
Bihar	..	..
Orissa	..	35
TOTAL :	1254	2407

* Operated through Agents

Existing Storage Capacity of F.C.I.

2953. DR. H P SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state.

(a) whether the F.C.I is planning to augment its existing storage capacities in the country especially in the light of the recent drought in the country and the recommendation of the SAARC for such an effort; and

(b) if so, the details of the mode of financing, the time-frame in which the plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H K L BHAGAT): (a) Keeping in view the overall requirement of storage capacity in the country, the Food Corporation of India propose to augment its owned storage capacity. The share allocated to India for the SAARC Food Security Reserve is 1 532 lakh tonnes. The storage capacity required for holding this foodgrain stock on the basis of 85% capacity utilisation would work out to about 1 80 lakh tonnes. The existnig storage capa-

city with the Corporation, State Governments and their agencies, owned and hired taken together, is adequate to meet this additional storage requirement also.

(b) A capacity of 7.4 lakh tonnes is under construction by the Food Corporation of India at different centres. This capacity is expected to be completed by 31.3.1990. The construction of this capacity is being financed by the Government through release of funds to the Corporation as budgetary support.

Implementation of Essential Commodities Act

2954. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some representations have been received with regard to undue hardships and harrasment caused to the honest traders on account of the special provisions under the Essential Commodities Act which make all offences, minor and major non bailable;

(b) whether appellate jurisdiction has been transferred to the executive in place of the judiciary adding to arbitrariness in contravention of laws of natural justice and common law of jurisprudence;

(c) if so, the number of persons prosecuted/jailed, State-wise and year-wise for the past three years; and

(d) whether Government propose to make amendments in the Act on the basis of various representations and its own experience so that this Act is not used as a lever for extortion of bribes and increase in corruption?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L BHAGAT): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Some representations have been received suggesting that offences, under the Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act, 1981 be made bailable and that the appellate jurisdiction should lie before a judicial authority and not the State Governments.

The Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act, 1981 came into force with effect from 1.9.82 for a period of five years, which has now been extended for a further period of five years with effect from 1.9.87 by an Act of Parliament, namely, Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Continuance Act, 1987 At the time of the extension of this Act in August, 1987, the representations received were duly considered.

No proposal for amending the Essential Commodities Act is under consideration.

A statement indicating the number of persons prosecuted/jailed, State-wise and year-wise for the past three years is enclosed.